

Approved For Release 2002/07/15 : CIA-RDP80-00810A002300070010-8  
East Germany

CONFIDENTIAL  
SECURITY INFORMATION

REPORT NO.

COUNTRY

KVP Bereitschaft in Leipzig I

TOPIC

25X1X

EVALUATION

PLACE OBTAINED

25X1C

DATE OF CONTENT

25X1C

DATE OBTAINED

DATE PREPARED 19 August 1953

REFERENCES

PAGES

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ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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1. The KVP Bereitschaft in Leipzig I was subordinate to the TV Leipzig which included a headquarters of 80 officers; an engineer battalion consisting of 15 officers, 50 NCOs and 35 engineers; and a signal battalion consisting of 15 officers, 50 NCOs and 35 personnel and was quartered in the barracks installation of the former 11th Inf Regt. <sup>1</sup>
2. The KVP Bereitschaft in Leipzig I consisted of a headquarters of 40 officers, 12 NCOs and 6 KVPs; the reconnaissance unit (S-1) consisting of 5 officers, 10 NCOs and 44 KVPs; the mortar unit consisting of 8 officers, 20 NCOs and 40 personnel; the motor transport company consisting of 5 officers, 20 NCOs and 43 personnel; the bicycle company consisting of 6 officers, 15 NCOs and 79 personnel; the motor repair shop platoon consisting of 1 officer, 5 NCOs and 7 KVPs; the ordnance platoon consisting of 2 officers, 4 NCOs and 9 KVPs; and the infirmary consisting of 1 officer, 3 NCOs and 6 KVPs; the motor vehicle course consisting of 5 officers, 10 NCOs and 60 personnel; the 1st Inf Regt consisting of 50 Officers, 150 NCOs and 160 personnel; the 2d Inf Regt consisting of 86 officers, 100 NCOs and 75 personnel; and the B Section consisting of 15 officers, 35 NCOs and 70 personnel. The 1st Inf Regt was organized into the headquarters and 3 battalions and the 2d Inf Regt consisted of 1 battalion, 1 officer reserve company, of about 70 officers and 1 NCO course with 3 officers, 50 NCOs and 20 personnel. The unit was quartered in the barracks installation of the former 11th Inf Regt. <sup>2</sup>
3. Lieutenant Colonel Guenther (fnu) was commanding officer of KVP Bereitschaft in Leipzig I, Lieutenant Colonel Hellweg was PK officer and Captain Seidel (fnu) was chief of staff. <sup>2</sup>

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5. The personnel of the KVP Bereitschaft in Leipzig I included about 10 percent of the 1908 through 1922 classes, about 10 percent of the 1923 through 1926 classes, about 10 percent of the 1927 through 1930 classes and about 70 percent of the 1931 through 1935 classes. Sixty percent of the personnel came from Saxony, about 20 percent from Saxony-Anhalt, about 10 percent from Thuringia and about 10 percent from the area along the other side of the Oder-Neisse line.
7. On 17 June 1953, the block of Bereitschaft Leipzig I was at the Weisswasser summer camp. The soldiers stationed there were alerted when the uprising broke out. At 3 p.m., about 120 KVPs were loaded onto six trucks. They occupied the railroad main station, the Labour Union House, the SED district headquarters, the power plant and a number of bridges. The attitude of the officers was calm. Soviet tank units which allegedly came from a troop training grounds arrived at 3 p.m. and also occupied all vital installations in the town. Martial law was proclaimed at about 9 p.m. At about 5 a.m. on 8 June, the 1st Inf Regt arrived from Weisswasser. The unit allegedly returned from the troop training grounds according to schedule and was immediately employed to re-inforce the other guard personnel. Normal training activity was resumed on 20 June. Soldiers employed on 17 June were to be granted special furlough on orders of the Ministry of the Interior. <sup>3</sup>
8. A commission consisting of 5 to 6 officers and a number of physicians was set-up on 22 and 23 June to examine sick personnel and shirkers. About 40 KVPs were dismissed on 1 July. It was stated that it would be better to have a small and efficient force than a large one which was unreliable. <sup>4</sup>
- 25X1A 1. Comment. TV 6000 in Leipzig is the superior office to the Bereitschaften in Muehlhausen, Leipzig I and Halle and to an artillery regiment in Erfurt, an AAA regiment in Gotha and a tank regiment in Zeithain.
- 25X1A 2. Comment. The Bereitschaft in Leipzig I was activated in April 1953 and, until early June, was referred to as Infanterie Verband. It was renamed into Bereitschaft along with all other KVP units for political and camouflage reasons when the so-called new course began.
- 25X1A 3. Comment. Other information also indicated that after the outbreak of riots, the KVP moved from the Weisswasser troop training grounds to Leipzig for employment there.
- 25X1A 4. Comment. Similar purges and dismissals were also reported from other KVP units, however, no large-scale mass dismissal was reported.

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